Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL POSS DUPE

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47

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 171315Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 8282

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MADRID NIACT IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL JIDDA 4766

EXDIS

FOR ATHERTON FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SA, JO

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON TDY FOR ISA SABBAGH

REF: (A) STATE 179045; (B) JIDDA 4741; (C) MADRID 5181 (NOTAL)

- 1. EMBASSY MADRID SAYS ISA SABBAGH HAS ALREADY CHECKED OUT OF HOTEL IN MALAGA. THEY ARE TRYING TO ASCERTAIN HIS ONWARD TRAVEL PLANS WITH SPANISH AUTHORITIES. ISA HAD TOLD EMBOFFS THAT AFTER LEAVING MALAGA HE WOULD VISIT VARIOUS SCENIC AND HISTORICAL SITES AS THE IMPULSE MOVED HIM. DATE FOR HIS RETURN TO POST WAS NOT SPECIFIC, BUT HE PLANNED TO BE BACK BEFORE AMBASSADOR RETURNED (AUGUST 29).
- 2. SABBAGH HAD PLANNED TO RETURN TO POST BY TAKING A SHIP FROM ALGERICAS, SPAIN, TO BEIRUT, AND FROM THERE TAKE A PLANE TO JIDDA.
- 3. FOR AMEMBASSY MADRID: PERHAPS A CHECK OF ALGERICAS/ BERIRUT SAILING DATES AND VESSELS COULD BE A WAY OF REACHING SABBAGH
- 4. FOR AMEMBASSY BEIRUT: IF EMBASSY BEIRUT KNOWS OF SABBAGH'S ARRIVAL THEY SHOULD IMMEDIATELY INFORM HIM OF CONFIDENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL

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MESSAGE CONTAINED REF (A) WHICH WE ARE HAVING REPEATED.

5. IT LOOKS AS IF ISA MIGHT GIVE US THE SLIP. IF HE CANNOT MAKE IT, ONE OF MOST COMPETENT USG INTERPRETERS IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE MOHAMMED SALAH, NOW IN USIS. UNTIL MY ARRIVAL IN LIBYA IN 1964, SALAH HAD SERVED AS VIRTUALLY ONLY EMBASSY INTERPRETER ON MATTERS OF TOP-LEVEL SECURITY WITH GOL OFFICIALS AND KING IDRIS. (SALAH CAME TO US IN LATE 1969 -- AFTER QADHAAFI'S COUP -- VIS SOME TIME IN LIBYAN JAIL FOR SERVICES TO USG).

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To: STATE MADRID

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